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Inside this issue:

A Question of Perspective 2

It's Called Discernment 3

When His Work Exceeds His Presence 3

The Self Government Principle of Motives 4



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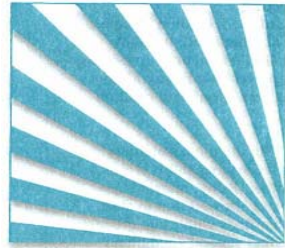
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Kingdom Business Network

Releasing Supernatural Ministry Into the Marketplace

Is Christ Enough?

By Rod Davis, KBN Director

As we labor day by day in the pursuits that God has called us to, whether in the marketplace or in the home or ministry endeavor, ask yourself, "Is Christ enough?"

Is HE enough to get us through each and every daily struggle and mishap? Is Christ enough to make our sales quota? Is Christ alone enough to make our business a success?

Is Christ alone, enough to put us in right standing with the Holy Father? Is Christ alone, enough to make us joint-heirs of the promises, made to be the seed of Abraham?

Is Christ, alone, enough to free us and set us free from the bonds of sin? Is Christ, alone, enough to make peace between us and a holy and just judge?

To these questions, I say "Yea and Amen!"

Paul writes to the Colossians, regarding the issue of Christ being the focal point of salvation, in Chapter 2: Verse 8, "Beware, lest anyone CHEAT you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Paul wrote this epistle to the church at Colossi, while in chains. He heard that the church people were troubled by divisive voices within. There were those in the church who tried to lead people away from Christ and His lordship and build their faith upon a blend of pagan-occultism, Jewish legalism, and

Christianity.

Paul spent a large part of this book laying forth the Lordship and central role played by Jesus Christ. He and He alone was the complete and total Lord. His blood and only His blood was sufficient to pay for the millennia of man's aggregate sin. No amount of law, written or unwritten could pay that price. No amount of rules and regulations can save one hair on your head.

Christ and Christ alone and a complete surrender to Him can make the debt to be paid in full.

Colossians 3:12, says "Therefore as the ELECT of God.... That is us Paul is speaking of, the Elect? How can that be? Only through the cross, only through the cross. Let us begin to rise up and live like he calls us, the ELECT of God. Let us lay down our rules and religion, the very things He died to set us free from...

As the children of Israel built a golden idol, while Moses was away speaking with God, on their behalf, we ourselves tend to always rush back to the "security blanket" of religion and our precious rules for behavior. Why do we do that? Must we create for ourselves, an idol of legalism?

I spent so many years building these kinds of idols, that create a sense of smug self-righteousness when we succeed at it, and then bouts of self-loathing when I fail to live up to my self-imposed standards.

There came a revelation one day, that with all my efforts and all my struggles, they amounted to less than nothing. I was no more holy than when I began. When I read in the Word that His work on the cross was "finished", and believed it in my heart, it was like my life was a car on a rough dirt road, filled with potholes and suddenly, I was on a smooth interstate highway, sailing along, and Jesus was now driving.

Colossians 2:18-23 (NKJV)

18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not^[a] seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

20 Therefore,^[b] if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh."

There's that word **cheat** again in verses 18. Verse 23 says, all

Continued on page 2

A Question of Perspective

By Steve Crosby www.stevecrosby.com

Poor Joe . . .

If Joe asks doctrinal questions of the other guy, he's a noble Berean truth seeker.

If Joe asks doctrinal questions of me, he's a heresy hunter.

If Joe examines the other group's doctrines and practices, he's a champion for truth.
If Joe examines my group's doctrines and practices, he's too negative.

If Joe is uncompromising on a perspective I agree with, he's a lover of truth.
If Joe is uncompromising on a perspective I disagree with, he's a Pharisee.

If Joe is merciful to me in my sin, he's compassionate.
If Joe is merciful to the person I don't like in a sin that offends me, he's a compromiser.

If Joe is long suffering with me in my weaknesses, he's Christ-like.
If Joe is long suffering with others in their weaknesses, he has "low standards."

If Joe is gracious in his dealings with me, he's a model Christian.
If Joe is gracious in his dealings with others, he's inconsistent.

If Joe tries to change something I disapprove of, he's progressive.
If Joe tries to change something I like, he's reckless.

If Joe stands with me in my failure, he's loyal.
If Joe stands with the other guy in his failure, he has no integrity.

If Joe is firm in applying truth I agree with, he's steadfast.
If Joe is firm in applying truth I don't agree with, he's rigid.

If Joe frankly speaks the truth about the other guy, he's a straight shooter.
If Joe frankly speaks the truth about me, he has "issues."

If Joe challenges the other leader, he's courageous to speak the truth.
If Joe challenges my leadership, he has a problem with authority and a Jezebel spirit.

If Joe exposes corruption in the other leader he's a brave reformer.
If Joe exposes corruption in me, he's a wounded prophet.

If Joe doesn't care what other's think of him, he's free of the fear of man.
If Joe doesn't care what I think of him, he doesn't understand

sonship.

If Joe speaks the truth about others, he's honest.

If Joe speaks the truth about me, he's insensitive.

If Pastor Joe disciplines the stranger in the other pew, he's a faithful man of integrity.

If Pastor Joe disciplines my cousin, he's harsh.

If Joe submits to my flawed leadership, he's a team player.
If Joe submits to the other guy's flawed leadership, he has no discernment.

If Joe works hard for my leadership vision, he's a faithful "son of the house."

If Joe works hard for his own vision, he's a rebel.

If Joe upholds personal standards I agree with, he's a righteous man.

If Joe upholds personal standards I think too severe, he's a legalist.

If Joe has moral standards I agree with, he is virtuous.
If Joe has moral standards better than mine, he's a prude.

If Joe has high personal ethics I agree with, he's holy.
If Joe has high personal ethics I

don't agree with, he's a perfectionist.

If Joe tithes to support the vision of my church, he's generous and loyal.

If Joe supports the poor instead, he lacks commitment and proper financial priorities.

If Joe shares my values, he's a man of convictions.

If Joe agrees with the other guy's values, he's intolerant.

If Joe is diligent in what I expect of him, he has a servant's heart.
If Joe is diligent in his own interests and desires, he doesn't understand commitment.

Esteeming the value of, and need for, the needle of truth often depends on which end of the syringe one is sitting. Only living in, and out from, Calvary will free us to love freely, and stand for Truth at the same time. Being "understood and appreciated" is a luxury we are not



Continued from page 1

these phony religious things we do, touch, not, taste not, have an appearance of wisdom....

Dear God, I pray that your people be delivered from *the appearance* of wisdom and deliver us into the realm of TRUE wisdom. O God, let us not be **cheated** any longer!

Freedom, liberty, true holiness, not man-made rules is what we seek O Lord. Open the eyes of our heart and let us see that you are so much bigger than our little

group's ideas, than our denominations, narrow interpretation of Christianity. Open the eyes of our heart and let us follow only the King. He is enough... He is all we need...

Jesus asked many of His disciples to stop what they were doing and simply follow him. He did not have a tour bus, or entourage, or Citation 10 jet. What they saw in Him however, must have been **enough** for them to surrender to Him.

Is He enough for you? Can you trust Him? Will you let Him take

full control of your life, your business, your family?

Most importantly, will you allow Him to be **enough** to save you? Will you lay down your religion and rules? Will you trust Him, and only Him? Is He **enough**?.....

My friend, He is more than enough! I must say that I never saw true success until I saw that He was indeed and enough and when I learned to rest in that fact.



It's Called Discernment

By Rod Davis, KBN Director

I want to be very careful here to make it clear that my intent is not to criticize others or to belittle others failings. I personally, am no stranger to failings, both moral and otherwise.

However, it is important to note going forward in the aftermath of the failed revival in Lakeland, Florida, that discernment was certainly lacking in some quarters and was certainly present in others.

When this revival was reported, it was a very short period of time before some mature, qualified people began to ask some questions about the practices and somewhat questionable doctrines that began to emerge. Almost as quickly, people who were involved in the revival, lashed out at those who were asking valid, scriptural questions.

Now the leadership of the revival has resigned in disgrace and shame. I prayerfully hope that a restoration process is taken advantage of by Brother Bentley and pray for him and his family.

When the revival was reported

widely and subsequently when some began to ask questions, about valid points, I felt an instant check in my spirit. This is discernment and I believe all Christians have discernment, but few develop the sensitivity to hear it and some choose to ignore it, in favor of emotion and hype and goose-bumps and sensationalism, etc.

Friends, as a disciple of Christ, your commitment requires that you "learn of Him" by spending time in His Word. There are certain parameters in the scripture that are to be used as a guide, if you will, for us to know what is of God and what is not. If we are not familiar with the Word enough to discern what is truly a spirit-led ministry, it is no one's fault but our own. It is our very personal responsibility to know these things.

Am I saying that the revival in Florida was a false revival? I don't know the answer to that, nor do I judge another's servant. I do know that the Bible tells us to be careful. How many times in the Epistles of Paul, did he utter the warning,"

DO NOT BE DECEIVED"?

The Bible warns there will come a time, when even the very elect, will be deceived. Let us pray that we will not be among that group! Let us diligently seek after His face and after His written word. I believe in new revelation. I believe the Book of Acts is still being written today.

However, I know that all we believe must have a "benchmark" to settle all issues.

Many left homes, jobs, and family to move to Florida to be near what was perceived as a move of the Spirit. I personally know some that did just that. An immature person does not see that God is everywhere, not limited to Florida, or Toronto or wherever is next for an outpouring.

Friends, I believe with my whole heart that there will be outpourings of the Spirit and these will increase, but this all the more reason to watch out for those in error, even if they are well intentioned.



When His Work Exceeds His Presence

By Os Hillman www.marketplaceleaders.org



"If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here" (Exodus 33:15).

One of the great dangers in Christian service is to move from a presence-based work to operate purely on our natural skill. Once we become established in something, the daily maintenance can lead us into complacency until a crisis arises that forces us back to our knees to appeal to the Lord for His presence to return.

Things were going well for Moses as he led the people out of Egypt. God was calling him to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God, to receive the Ten Commandments. While he was there, the people fell away from

the Lord by returning to the ways of Egypt by building and worshipping a golden calf under Aaron's watch.

This revealed that the spiritual foundation of the people and the leadership of Aaron had not been grounded enough for the leader to have an extended absence. God's presence had left the people. If you are in management, you must know the condition of your team to know how long you can be away from hands-on leadership.

When Moses came back and saw what had happened, he recognized the solution as well. Having God's presence return was the only way they could proceed and have success.

"How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" (Ex 33:16).

Moses also realized a weakness in his own ability to lead. He pleaded God to mentor him: "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you."

Is the presence of God in your current activities? Are the people you lead mature in their faith that allows you to be off site? Ask for God's help on both counts

The Self Government Principle of Motives

“No one, regardless of how shrewd or well-advised he is, can stand against the Lord.” Proverbs 21:30



By John e. Schrock, Businessman

Underline the key concepts found in this principle.

No chance . . . there is no substitute for God, nor can we compete against Him. He knows what is right, what is best, and what will work. The sooner we accept Him as the final authority and begin to structure our lives, business and country after His laws and principles, the better off we'll be. Life is not meant to be difficult—we make it difficult by operating on defiled motives. Motive means the reason or motivation for how and why we do things. Some lie, cheat and manipulate in order to get a deal, and then call it “being shrewd.” This does not lead us to the good life, but to moral decay. Webster says shrewd is “worldly wise, clever or near to the truth.” So it is important that we always seek for the truth. Manipulating the truth or being clever or shrewd will eventually destroy us.

Jesus said there is a broad way that leads to destruction, but also a narrow one that leads to life, or we could say “*The truth will make us free.*” He designed life to make us grow. A child needs to eat to live and grow; likewise, our minds and spirits need to learn (eat) in order to grow. But we have to live on truth, or we'll become shrewd. If a child stops eating, he dies; in the same way, if we quit learning truth, we die spiritually, mentally and eventually physically. It's like riding a bike—when we stop, we fall. When an apple is green, it is growing; but when it stops growing, it rots. So life is a process, and if we want the good life, we must continue to strive for these three things:

1. To become morally correct.
2. To understand people and situations.
3. To grow in the knowledge of God and His laws, and the principles He designed for humanity.

The good life starts when our motives are pure and we follow good principles, taking responsibility for who and what we are. We are like a product: our quality and value is based on the principles of which we are made. When we are honest and our motives are pure, we become open and free with no hidden agendas. People will sense the freedom and will not defend themselves

against us. They will respect us and will want to do business with us. We cannot trust in our own smarts or shrewdness; if we do, we will be exposed when we get under pressure. Yes, we must be well advised, but we must see truth and God as our best resource and advisor. This will teach us common sense and practical ways that will work in every area of our lives. Sometimes we educate ourselves until we consider ourselves shrewd and wise. Then we start trusting in our own abilities rather than in God's good advice, and become fools without God. We cannot function properly without the truth. It will keep our motives pure. To reject God and His ideas is like cutting off the hand that feeds us, for God and Truth are synonymous.

Today, America has more attorneys per capita than any other country in the world. We have more lawsuits than the rest of the world combined. We write thousands of laws to interpret the ten commandments. Some try to outwit each other by their shrewdness, or get ahead by some million-dollar lawsuit. We have forgotten the simplicity of “Do unto others as you would have them do unto

you.” Let's not kid ourselves. God knows all about our doings, and sooner or later He will set the record straight in spite of how shrewd or well-advised we may think we are. It is important to be well-advised, but let's make sure our motives are pure and use God's good advice as a part of our dealings and decision-making. Let's be wise and listen to what God has to say. Then, we will not be known for being smart or shrewd—but wise.

This principle is part of the one year character development program:

Foundations for Achievement.

Discussion:

How can you tell if you are operating with pure motives?

What is the difference between wisdom and shrewdness?

Measuring up to the plumbline:

How well are you currently applying this principle in your life? (10 being highest, 1 being lowest)

Can you see the value of raising your rating?

Thoughts to Ponder:

Hard work is the key to success, some would rather pick the lock.

For more of these Principles and additional Resources visit
www.lared.org